

1997-98 SESSION COMMITTEE HEARING RECORDS

Committee Name:

Joint Committee on
Finance (JC-Fi)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrJC-Fi_Misc_pt158

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

Jason LeCalvalier
-not he
was clear?

Effects of Reforming the Definition of School-to-Work

1. The proposed definition is *too narrow*.

Currently, the definition of school-to-work includes all students, of *all* grade levels. Education for future career aspirations starts long before the transition from grade school to secondary schooling, and the implementation of the proposed definition would include *only* high school students. This effectively cuts off opportunities for grade school students to pursue and further their education in career fields they may be interested in. In addition, the proposed definition focuses primarily on the work-based learning, and excludes the school-based learning. Being involved with DECA, I know from personal experience that the education I received from school-based learning was equal to, if not more important than, the education I was exposed to in the work-based learning programs. School-based learning provides the foundation for us to step and learn from in reaching career and, in my case, Vocational Student Organization decisions.

2. Transferring the DPI to DWD is *Not as Consolidated as it Seems*.

On the surface, effectively moving the Department of Public Instruction with the Department of Workforce Development appears to be a consolidated effort to combine activities in one agency. However, the implementation of such a transfer would actually remove the outstanding leadership, support and program coordination we receive for our state Vocational Student Organizations, as well as school and work-based learning. In addition, this would also mean that our programs would suffer from the loss of funding that the Department of Public Instruction has proven to be invaluable in providing for us. This will all result in the disconnection of the leadership and support we currently benefit from. In the long run, the transferring of the School-to-Work program from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Workforce Development would ultimately prove to be detrimental to the our renowned *total education* effort.

3. The Definition and Administration of School-to-Work *Should Not be Changed*.

As a member of a Vocational Student Organization, I am concerned about the effects of changing the definition and administration of School-to-Work. Should it come to pass, funding in this state will support only work-based learning, and effectively cut off and financial aid for school-based learning. The assistance we receive now trains us in the occupational knowledge that prospective future employers have no time or resources to provide us. Consequently, business and industry *depends* on school-based learning to prepare us in business background and experience, and thus should not be changed.

To: Governor Thompson and Joint Finance Committee, Milwaukee Wisconsin

From: Esther Blackley
3576 South 43rd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53220

To Whom it may concern,

I am a 40 year old woman who is in a wheelchair, and has her own apartment and a job (which is why I am unable to be here) ^{but} I want my opinion to be heard.

The other day, I was looking at my mail and saw the proposed state budget that I got from United Cerebral Palsy, an agency that I work with here in Milwaukee. I was somewhat alarmed at your proposal for the Community Options Program. I understand that my funding through COP is not directly affected by this proposal now, but, I am concerned for other people who want to move out of nursing homes but have to wait. The reason why I am so concerned about them is because I used to volunteer in a nursing home where individual resident's rights to proper hygiene, privacy, respect and other needs being met in a timely manner were not always taken care of. I can understand this sometimes, but not most of the time.

I believe that if the people would move out of the nursing homes, they would get better care for lower cost than they get in the nursing home for high costs and poor level of care. So, I hope you will allow more COP slots to be opened for people in nursing homes who really want to move out. These people have skills and minds to live in the community.

Also, I was reading the proposal and became alarmed again regarding Medical Assistance co-payments. Right now, I can hardly afford to pay existing co-payments such as medications, wheelchair service and health care. Yes, I have a job, but that does not mean that I have enough to pay for more Medical Assistance co-payments. What I am talking about is I have to pay for my transportation, my rent, my utilities. Some months I feel like I am only working to live, with no money left over for recreational purposes such as vacations, going out to eat, or to see a movie. Everyone deserves to be able to relax sometimes. So with the ^{new} co-payments brought up in the proposal, I would not be able to relax and would feel like I have to work to just survive.

So, please consider my letter and thank you for reading this.

ESTHER A BLACKLEY

PLEASE SUPPORT THE MINING MORATORIUM BILL
IN THE WORDING AND INTENT AS IT WAS PASSED
IN THE WISCONSIN SENATE.

APRIL 8, 1997

TO: STATE BUDGET COMMITTEE
UNITED COMMUNITY CENTER

CHAIRMEN: BURKE, JENSEN

SENATORS: GEORGE, COWLES, SHIBILSKI, JAUCH, WINEKE, DECKER, PANZER

REPRESENTATIVES: OURADA, COGG, ALEXIS, HARS DORF, ALBERS, KAUFERT,
PORTER

PLEASE CONSIDER OUR PROTEST AGAINST SEC. 32 IN THE
PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE BUDGET IN THE NATURAL RESOURCES SECTION (P. 430) AND
PLEASE ACCEPT THE ENCLOSED MATERIALS RELATED TO SULFIDE DEPOSITS,
CHEMICALS AND TECHNOLOGIES. YOU MAY COPY AND SHARE THEM AMONG
YOURSELVES. THEY ARE 14 PAGES.

SULFIDE ORE DEPOSITS ARE THE FOCUS OF NEW DISCOVERIES IN
EARTH SCIENCES.
SULFIDE MINING IS NOT NEW BUT HISTORICALLY HAS ALWAYS
RESULTED IN TERRIBLE POLLUTION TO RIVERS AND GROUNDWATER AND AIR
(SMELTING) AND DAMAGE TO THE HEALTH OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS AND PEOPLE.

THE METALLIC SULFIDE MINING MORATORIUM BILL THAT WAS
PASSED IN THE SENATE — NOT A WATERED-DOWN, IMPOTENT VERSION —
IS A WORTHY AND EXTREMELY VALUABLE TOOL TO PREVENT THE
FOLLY OF USING OUR BEST AND CLEANEST WISCONSIN WATERS OR
FOR THAT MATTER, ANY OF OUR WATERS, AS A GUINNEA PIG FOR
"NEW" "TECHNOLOGIES": CHEMICALS, PROCESSES, CAPS, LINERS, ETC.
THAT HAVE NOT BEEN PROVEN IN A POLYMETALLIC SULFIDE MINING
OPERATION AND CLOSURE — 10 YEARS OPEN AND 10 YEARS CLOSED.

THE (GOVERNOR'S?) LANGUAGE OF SEC. 32 PURPORTS THAT A
"PROVEN" "TECHNOLOGY" CAN BE FOUND AND DECIDED UPON BY
POLITICAL APPOINTEES — SCIENTIFIC OR OTHERWISE.

FOLLY! THERE EXISTS NO PROVEN TECHNOLOGY AGAINST
ACID MINE DRAINAGE (MUCH LESS CLEAN-UP),

ESPECIALLY IN A WASTE DUMP THE SCALE
OF THAT PROPOSED FOR THE EXXON-RIO-ALGOM OWNED CRANDON
MINE.

SHALL WE MAKE IT EASIER FOR ENGLISH AND CANADIAN,
AND AUSTRALIAN AND MULTI-NATIONAL MINING CORPORATIONS
TO WALK AWAY (OR FLY OR SAIL) WITH BILLIONS OF
DOLLARS WORTH OF GOLD, COPPER, ZINC, URANIUM, RARE EARTH
MINERALS, SILVER, PLATINUM METALS, ETC., ETC. (AND
DIAMONDS TOO! ??

WHILE WISCONSIN IS LEFT WITH ACIDIC
POWDERED TAILINGS HAVING THE ABILITY TO DISSOLVE THE
UNWANTED SULFIDE MINERALS ALSO PRESENT! THE CADMIUM,
MERCURY, THALLIUM, ARSENIC, SELENIUM ETC. ??

JUST SAY NO AND SUPPORT CLEAN
WATER

RESPECTFULLY & SINCERELY, — CLARE VANDERSLICE — MINING IMPACT

Recommendations for the Use of GPR for the Support
of the Snowmobile Program-Related

General Purpose Revenues (GPR) in the amount of \$1.8 million would be allocated within DNR to:

- offset the use of snowmobile registration funds for existing Department of Natural Resources snowmobile enforcement and administrative expenditures.
- expend the number of hours spent by Department conservation wardens on snowmobile enforcement from approximately 6,000 hours (equivalent to 3.0 FTE) to 18,000 (equivalent the initial 3 FTE plus an additional 5.6 FTE).
- increase the amount of funds going to the county enforcement aids program from \$200,000 per year to \$300,000 and
- provide funds from the snowmobile program to share proportionately with other motorized recreation programs in continuing the automation of the recreation vehicle registration process.

The funding of affected program components would look like the following:

Existing	New GPR Funding	SEG Offset to Trails
LE/SAFETY TRAINING	\$522,500	\$522,500
COUNTY ENF AIDS	\$200,000	\$200,000
AIDS ADMIN	\$135,900	\$135,900
REGISTRATION ADMIN	\$222,600	\$222,600
ADMIN SERVICES	<u>\$165,000</u>	<u>\$165,000</u>
Total Existing	\$1,246,000	\$1,246,000
Additional		
LE/SAFETY TRAINING	\$382,000	
COUNTY ENF AIDS	\$100,000	
REGISTRATION AUTOM	<u>\$72,000</u>	
Total Additional	\$554,000	
Grand Total	\$1,800,000	

The snowmobile funds offset to the trails program would be used for the growing program components of bridge and trail rehabilitation, addition of critical segments in the trail system and a likely increase in the amount per mile utilized for normal trail maintenance.

Registration automation will require an estimated \$72,000 in FY 98 and an on-going amount of \$15,000 per year.

The additional \$100,000 per year will provide the necessary/funds to counties currently participating in snowmobile patrols to receive reimbursement for their efforts without a prorated reduction .

Currently, 5 FTE or 9150 hours of conservation warden activity is directed at law enforcement and safety education efforts. The ability of the warden force to influence or reduce the accident rate through education and enforcement activities is severely limited by the number of hours dedicated and funded for the effort. The additional \$482,000 of GPR funds made available would be utilized to fund an additional 10,000 hours of effort which is a step closer to the 20,000+ hours that studies and demand for services indicate. On-going costs for the additional enforcement and education activities beyond the first year would include an additional \$57,000 for supplies and services.

There is \$450,000 GPR PER YEAR wrote into THE BUDGET. The BALANCE NEEDED to complete the 1.8 million GPR support for the snowmobile program is **\$1,350,000 GPR PER YEAR.**

WE CARE PARENTS' NETWORK

855 North Fourteenth Street Suite 122
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233
414-342-4375 414-645-9286

April 8, 1997

Suggested Amendments to Categorical Aid Funds for Exceptional Education

1. Allow School Districts to submit a charge of \$ 1,000 for each child served under Section 504.
2. Order DPI to identify 40 districts who do a superior job and 40 districts doing an inferior job.
3. Give DPI the authority to give each of the:
 - 40 superior districts a bonus of from 1 % to 10% on their Ex Ed payment
 - 40 inferior districts a penalty of from 1 % to 10% on their Ex Ed payment.
4. Follow Governor Thompson's advice that much of DPI should be located in the Milwaukee area by earmarking money in the budget for Ex. Ed. Supervision of urban districts in the Milwaukee office.
5. Multiply the amount eligible for reimbursement for each district by a weighing formula to reflect the percentage of children in Ex Ed in the district. For example . . .

Percent of Enrollment in Ex. Ed.	Base Charge	Bonus 1 x	Adj. Charge	Bonus 2 x	Adj. Charge	Bonus 3 x	Adj. Charge	Bonus 4 x	Adj. Charge
5 %	\$ 200	105 %	\$ 210	110 %	\$ 220	115 %	\$230	120 %	\$ 240
10 %	\$ 400	105 %	\$ 420	110 %	\$ 440	115 %	\$ 460	120 %	\$ 480
15%	\$ 600	105 %	\$ 630	110 %	\$ 660	115 %	\$ 690	120 %	\$ 720
20 %	\$ 800	105 %	\$ 840	110 %	\$ 880	115 %	\$ 920	120 %	\$ 960

6. Give School Districts two choices for billing for School Psychologists . . .
 - Option 1: (As it is now) Include the full cost along with the full cost for Social Workers, Diagnostic Teachers, etc. This results in about a 35% to 38% paid by the state.
 - Option 2: Pay 95 % of hourly cost spend in direct student service, to be paid in full before the other district charges are prorated.
7. Amend Chapter 119 to authorize DPI to pay Ex. Ed. aids directly to the local schools or groups of schools in Milwaukee Public Schools.
8. Include in the Polly Williams Voucher program payments for Ex. Ed children similar to the provisions made by the Special Committee on Public School Open Enrollment established by the Joint Legislative Council.
9. With changes similar to those above, designed to remove most of the inequities of Ex. Ed Categorical Aids, increase the appropriation to keep pace with inflation.

**JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING
1997-98 BIENNIAL BUDGET**

Tuesday, April 8, 1997
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Statement of the Hon. Gerald P. Ptacek in support of the executive budget as it relates to CCAP (Circuit Court Automation Program):

As a Circuit Court Judge since 1988 and a member of the CCAP Steering Committee since 1990, I urge your support of the provisions in the Governor's 1997-98 biennial budget that apply to CCAP. These provisions include:

- 1) **The establishment of an Equipment Replacement Fund** which would be funded by a \$2 increase in the Justice Information Fee. CCAP has established computer networks at 70 courthouses consisting of more than 2,300 workstations and 1,000 printers; it has an inventory of over \$16 million in computer hardware and software. This fund would be used to update and/or replace equipment for county users; and
- 2) **Convert 23 Project Positions to Permanent.** This change results in no additional cost. It is consistent with the permanent, ongoing nature of CCAP.

As a judge, I see CCAP at work on a daily basis. It is important and invaluable to the functioning of the trial courts in Wisconsin. All Wisconsin Counties except 2 have chosen to use CCAP to automate their court records and functions. Computer networks using case management software have been installed in 69 Wisconsin Counties. Recent accomplishments include:

- a) installation of **financial system software** in 53 counties with all requesting counties to be installed during 1998. This system allows for record keeping regarding fees, fines, forfeitures, bonds using double-entry accounting principles. It includes components to improve financial collections;
- b) **public access workstations** have been installed in all requesting counties (65) providing access to court records to the public;
- c) installation of a **new jury system** in 40 counties since January 1, 1997. This complies with new Wisconsin Supreme Court jury rules and will be installed in all counties prior to the effective date of the new rules on July 1, 1997;
- d) all CCAP counties have received software changes to accommodate the **New Juvenile Code**;

e) CCAP has entered into a **cooperative agreement with BJIS** (Bureau of Justice Information Systems) in DOA to establish a statewide network for Wisconsin District Attorneys.

CCAP is a successful, invaluable automation program and is vital to the Wisconsin Court System. I urge your support of the provisions in the Governor's budget which recognize the value of CCAP and will help to assure its vitality in the future. Thank you.

DATE: April 8, 1997

TO: State Legislature Joint Finance Committee

FROM: Leslie Lorbiecki
208 South Street
West Bend, WI 53095

SUBJECT: The University of Wisconsin Centers and the long distance learning program

Currently, I am a student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. I will earn my Bachelor of Business Administration degree from UW-Milwaukee this May and will start my career at Northwestern Mutual Life as a programmer/analyst.

This achievement in higher education would not have been possible without the University of Wisconsin Center System. The UW-Center system enabled me to pursue a college degree while continuing as a mother, wife and wage-earner.

Because of the cooperation between the 2-year and the 4-year campus systems, I was able to jump-start a Bachelor's degree at UW-Washington County in West Bend. Two years ago I earned an associate degree from UW-Washington County. This associate degree, coupled with core business courses taken at the Washington County center, enabled me to transfer directly to UW-Milwaukee's School of Business Administration program.

The long distance learning program is an asset to the University of Wisconsin System. If this program had been in place sooner, I would definitely have registered for the long distance classes.

The ability to take courses from 4 year campuses without the actual commute to the campus will benefit Wisconsin residents. Students will be able to explore various career options earlier in their college programs. Thus, the efficiency of college programs will be increased. Most importantly, long distance learning will help keep higher education affordable and attainable for many of Wisconsin's residents.

The University of Wisconsin Center system is indispensable. The UW-Centers offer affordable, high quality education to Wisconsin residents who do not have access to a 4-year campus. My success, and the success of every other college graduate who was able to pursue a college degree because of the accessibility of a UW-Center, is a viable contribution to our society as a whole.

April 8, 1997

Dear Joint Finance Committee:

I am currently a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee working toward a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and have a strong interest in the field of physical therapy. The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has developed a Master of Science degree program in physical therapy which has already been approved by the UW System Board of Regents. However, the necessary funding by the State Legislature was not granted during the last budget session. I am writing to ask for your support for UWM's Physical Therapy Program during the next budget session. Without a public university providing an opportunity for students to obtain the education and training essential for the field, Milwaukee will be incapable of keeping pace with the rapidly growing need for physical therapist in the coming decade. By the year 2005, an 80% increase in physical therapy jobs in the Milwaukee metropolitan area has been projected by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

The services provided by physical therapists is critical for the efficient and successful rehabilitation of patients in this rapidly changing health care system. With the increasing emphasis on independent living, the need for physical therapist is undeniable.

Please support and vote for the provision of funding for the Physical Therapy program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the coming budget session. The need for a public program in physical therapy is evident and the number of students interested in pursuing this profession keeps growing.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Busack". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Laura Busack
12326 West Larkspur Road
Franklin, Wisconsin 53132

**Nellie Wilson Public Testimony
before the Joint Finance Committee**

April 8, 1997

United Community Center

Good morning. My name is Nellie Wilson, and I am the Chair of the Advocacy Committee of the Commission on Aging. On behalf of the Commission on Aging, I am here to ask that you put additional funding in the State's 1997 - 99 budget for the Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Program. Today, I was fortunate enough that I was able to drive my own car to this meeting; sadly, there are many older adults in this County who are not so lucky. Because of their frailty, they are forced to depend upon the Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Program, and without it they literally become prisoners of their own homes. Unfortunately, more and more older adults are finding themselves in this position because there is an emergency situation in Wisconsin due to lack of funding for this program.

Annually in Milwaukee, we have to deny a minimum of 3,000 group rides and 1,000 individual rides because of lack of funding, and the State has already recognized this transportation emergency. Translink 21, a Department of Transportation planning process which took over two years to complete, determined that there is a need to double funding for the Elderly and Handicapped Transportation s85.21 program. Another analysis, a 1994 study by the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, revealed that only 10% of persons eligible for the program were being served.

In Milwaukee County, we are only able to provide transportation for very specific purposes such as medical rides, grocery shopping day care, nursing

home visitation, and rides to meal sites. All other requests have to be denied.

A typical wait for obtaining a ride in Milwaukee is currently two weeks.

There are no weekend transportation services in Milwaukee, and currently daily rides are provided only between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Additionally, there are no rides available for employment, education, social or recreational purposes. This limitation on ride purpose intensifies isolation of the elderly, causing depression and premature illness.

The American humorist Artemus Ward once said, "Why don't you show me a statesman who can rise up to the emergency, and cave in the emergency's head. Funding for the Elderly and Handicapped Transportation has reached emergency proportions, and I am asking you today to do the right thing and adequately fund the Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Program.

Fred Lindner Public Testimony
before the Joint Finance Committee
April 8, 1997
United Community Center

Hello. My name is Fred Lindner. I am the Chair of the Long Term Support Planning Committee of Milwaukee County, and I am also a member of the Advocacy Committee of the Commission on Aging. On behalf of the Long Term Support Planning Committee, I am here to ask that you put additional funding in the State's 1997 - 99 budget for the Community Options Program. The Planning Committee believes that funding community-based care versus institutional care is most appropriate since funding for community care reduces the more expensive utilization of institutional care. As you know, COP has proven to be a very cost effective and the consumer-preferred alternative to nursing home care. The German writer Goethe recognized two hundred years ago said, "The best of all governments is that which teaches us to govern ourselves." I would suggest that that is particularly true of when it comes to the government supporting consumer choice for long term care.

Nonetheless, while the Secretary recommended 2,500 additional COP placements, the Governor's budget provides funds for only 400 COP placements statewide in each year of the biennium. Yet in Milwaukee County alone, there are currently more than 3,375 people on COP waiting lists. Many of those folks who need services, but are unable to obtain the help, are likely to enter nursing homes as a permanent placement because they will have no other choice. Clearly, an expansion of the COP program is the most cost effective and humane solution to the immense need for long term care in

Wisconsin, and the program should actually be expanded to eliminate all waiting lists.

The Commission on Aging and the aging network is asking you to "keep the community promise" by supporting this funding for community based care and opposing the institutional bias of the Governor's budget proposal. Let me explain. Although the Department of Health and Family Services had proposed zero increases for nursing home rate increases, the Governor has recommended a 6.1% increase for nursing home rates in 1998 and a 3.5% increase for nursing home rates in 1999. This amounts to a total of \$132.1 million dollars. Compare that dollar amount with the Governor's recommendation of only \$5.3 million for COP funding, which is only 4% of the nursing home increase. This minimal increase was also in contradiction of the Secretary's recommendation for an additional \$15.5 million. That's how little the administration cares about about "keeping the community promise!"

I am thanking you in advance for respecting Milwaukee's older citizens. I anticipate that you will give your support for additional COP funding which will bolster the pending coordinated long term care system in Wisconsin, known as long term care redesign. We genuinely appreciate your continued concern for older adults in Milwaukee and Wisconsin.

**Commissioner George McKinney Public Testimony
before the Joint Finance Committee**

April 8, 1997

United Community Center

Good morning. My name is George McKinney, and I am a Commissioner on Aging and a member of the Advocacy Committee of the Commission. I am also President of the United Auto Workers Retirees Chapter of the Milwaukee area. I want to speak to you today about the need for additional funding for older adult programs in the Governor's budget bill. The incredible lack of funding for these programs in the Governor's budget bill reminds me of a story by the Brothers Grimm called "The Old Grandfather and the Grandson". The story goes something like this.

There was once a very old man whose eyes had grown dim, his ears deaf and whose knees shook. When he sat at the table hardly able to hold his spoon he'd spill soup on the tablecloth, and a little would even run out of his mouth. This disgusted his son and his daughter-in-law, and so finally the old grandfather had to sit in a corner behind the stove. They gave him his food in an earthenware bowl and not even enough at that. He used to look sadly toward the table, and tears would come to his eyes. One day his trembling hands couldn't even hold the bowl, and it fell on the floor and broke to pieces. The young woman scolded, but he said nothing and merely sighed. For a few farthings she then bought him a wooden bowl, and he had to eat out of that.

As they were sitting thus, his little four-year-old grandson was fitting some little boards together on the floor. "What are you doing there?" asked his father.

"I'm making a trough for father and mother to eat out of when I'm grown up." answered the child."

The husband and wife looked at one another for awhile, finally began to weep, and at once brought the old grandfather to the table. From then, they always let him eat with them, and they didn't say anything even when he did spill a little.

I am asking you to consider this story as you review the Governor's meager recommendations for funding for the Community Options Program and the Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Program, and his mean-spirited recommendation to eliminate the coordinator position of the Volunteer Ombudsman Program. Show the Governor what good public policy should be by allowing older adults in Wisconsin the option to "sit at the table" and receive these much needed programs and services.

Thank you.

**Commissioner Louise Abrahams Yaffe Public Testimony
before the Joint Finance Committee
April 8, 1997
United Community Center**

Good afternoon. My name is Louise Abrahams Yaffe. I am a member of the Board on Aging and Long Term Care, and I am also a Commissioner of the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging. I would like to speak to you today about the Governor's Budget proposal which eliminates the Coordinator position for the Volunteer Ombudsman Program. Yet the recent newspaper articles in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* about the elder abuse occurring in nursing homes remind us all that the nursing home industry is not monitored enough!

Several years ago the Board on Aging and Long Term Care realized that there would never be enough professional ombudsmen to meet the growing need, and furthermore, our goals was to have regular visitation of nursing homes.

Funding was obtained from a private foundation to examine the usefulness of trained volunteers working with designated nursing homes. The premise was that if small problems can be identified and brought to the attention of the nursing home before these problems become a crisis, then everyone benefits, particularly the nursing home resident.

The pilot project has been extremely successful in every way. There are currently 59 volunteers working in 41 nursing homes. Each volunteer spends a minimum of two hours each week in his or her assigned facility.

They are available to over 7,600 residents. When they spot problems, they have been trained to seek solutions within the facility, and they provide the professional ombudsmen with the more complicated legal and financial issues.

If the model was successful, the BOALTC planned to seek continued funding from the Legislature to eventually expand this volunteer effort throughout the state. Since the model was successful, a request for \$48,400 in each year of the biennium was made for a full-time volunteer coordinator and related expenses for the volunteers.

This volunteer coordinator is essential to the success of this program. She carefully screens applicants to make sure they are appropriate for this work. She develops and provides their training and is their direct supervisor as well as mentor.

The administration has indicated that the coordinator's work could be absorbed by existing staff. That is simply not true! It indicates the administration's lack of understanding of the enormous work of the current BOALT staff as well as dynamics of running a successful volunteer program. A really successful volunteer ombudsman program should recruit and train hundreds of volunteers for this excellent effort over the next few years.

But that can not be done without your support of this program. On behalf of the nursing home residents around the state, who depend upon our dedicated volunteers, I ask you to amend the Board on Aging's budget to continue this very cost effective program.

DATE: April 8, 1997

TO: State Legislature Joint Finance Committee

FROM: Leslie Lorbiecki
208 South Street
West Bend, WI 53095

SUBJECT: The University of Wisconsin Centers and the long distance learning program

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The ability to take courses from 4 year campuses without the actual commute to the campus will benefit Wisconsin residents. Students will be able to explore various career options earlier in their college programs. Thus, the efficiency of college programs will be increased. Most importantly, long distance learning will help keep higher education affordable and attainable for many of Wisconsin's residents.

The University of Wisconsin Center system is indispensable. The UW-Centers offer affordable, high quality education to Wisconsin residents who do not have access to a 4-year campus. My success, and the success of every other college graduate who was able to pursue a college degree because of the accessibility of a UW-Center, is a viable contribution to our society as a whole.

ROBERT PIETRYKOWSKI
2710 South Shore Drive, #A
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207-2361
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Fax: (414) 747-8963
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April 8, 1997

Members of the Joint Finance Committee
Wisconsin State Legislature

Good afternoon:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments in support of the University of Wisconsin System and, in particular, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM). My presence before you today has been prompted by my long-term acquaintance with UWM. The combination of my wife's experience at UWM, that of two nieces and my own represents five degrees attained there with one now in process. Truly, our family has benefited from the quality and availability of UWM's educational resources. My wife and I have been involved with the University as professionals and as active alumni. I have been on UWM's Board of Visitors for approximately eight years.

Reflecting on the devolution which is taking place at all levels of government and in most of the public policy arena, I would like to reinforce the comments made by others that additional possibilities exist for devolution of governmental responsibilities. I am referring to the flexibility of management and budget decision-making proposed for the University System's Board of Regents recommended in the Governor's budget bill. Allowing greater discretion in the management and fiscal areas by the Board of Regents would enable that entity to be more timely and relevant for addressing the needs and taking full advantage of the assets of the University System.

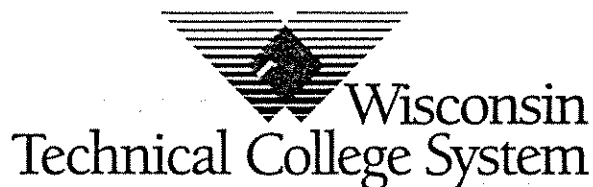
I am sure an adequate case has been made for you that the University System needs whatever additional fiscal resources you can muster to continue to offer high quality education and to retain its exemplary faculty. I believe that the combination of additional fiscal resources and greater discretion in the raising and allocation of those resources by the Board of Regents will ensure both improved quality and better efficiency in the University System so that it is comparable, even competitive, with similar systems for higher education.

Again, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert Pietrykowski



The Value of a Technical College Degree

The 16 districts in the Wisconsin Technical College System surveyed recent graduates of programs in their respective fields. The following information was obtained from the results of that survey, conducted between October and December 1995 (82% response rate). It is a sampling, based on higher enrollment fields, of the over 300 career programs offered in the Wisconsin Technical Colleges System. The degrees below are two-year associate degrees unless otherwise specified.

Program	Salary Range	Median Salary
(6 months after graduation)		
Business		
Accounting	\$10,392 - 39,996	\$17,998
Administrative Assistant-Secretarial	10,392 - 35,976	15,972
CIS Microcomputer Specialist	14,556 - 38,880	21,828
CIS Programmer/Analyst	12,468 - 72,792	26,052
Finance	10,392 - 24,000	16,512
Medical Secretary	12,372 - 23,124	15,588
Paralegal	12,468 - 28,908	17,832
One-Year Diploma		
Accounting Assistant	9,180 - 16,908	14,256
Information Processing Specialist	10,008 - 18,780	13,776
Health		
Dental Hygienist	26,208 - 43,668	36,000
Nursing	12,468 - 52,860	29,112
Occupational Therapy Assistant	15,024 - 51,948	23,016
Respiratory Care Practitioner	19,848 - 45,252	24,948
One-Year Diploma		
Practical Nursing	16,632 - 44,196	21,084
Medical Assistant	12,024 - 24,948	16,476
Industrial		
Automotive Technician	10,392 - 33,600	16,464
Machine Tooling Technics	14,556 - 44,196	22,980
One-Year Diploma		
Auto Body & Paint Technician	10,200 - 24,960	16,248
Automotive Maintenance Technician	12,996 - 26,004	18,708
Electrical Power Distribution	13,512 - 37,500	22,872
Machine Tool Operation	10,596 - 33,696	21,840
Welding	9,600 - 31,200	21,144
Short-Term Diploma (3-6 Months)		
Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Heating	14,592 - 37,428	27,804
Truck Driving	14,400 - 50,952	24,756

Continued on back page.

Program	Salary Range	Median Salary
(6 months after graduation)		
Agribusiness		
Agribusiness/Science Technology	\$ 8,832 - 28,464	\$18,048
Biotechnology Laboratory Technician	18,996 - 20,796	19,896
Natural Resources Technician	10,392 - 19,656	15,888
Veterinary Technician	9,612 - 18,708	14,556
One-Year Diploma		
Dairy Herd Management	8,400 - 27,288	16,644
Short-Term Diploma (3 to 6 Months)		
Farm Business & Production Management	9,000 - 49,992	19,992
Marketing		
Hospitality & Tourism Management	10,392 - 25,992	17,484
Marketing	10,404 - 62,400	17,676
Supervisory Management	15,804 - 64,992	31,176
Short-Term Diploma (3 to 6 Months)		
Travel Agent	10,392 - 31,992	16,044
Graphics and Applied Arts		
Commercial Art	11,952 - 33,792	18,564
Printing and Publishing	14,028 - 23,400	16,884
One-Year Diploma		
Printing	11,436 - 23,448	16,116
Home Economics		
Child Care and Development	7,920 - 27,012	13,512
Culinary Arts	10,068 - 25,092	17,568
Interior Design	9,636 - 26,988	16,632
One-Year Diploma		
Barber/Cosmetologist	8,856 - 22,872	11,952
Child Care Services	8,652 - 18,612	11,436
Food Service Production	8,880 - 24,996	15,960
Short-Term Diploma (3 to 6 Months)		
Child Day Care	9,624 - 33,276	11,952
Service		
Fire Science	20,520 - 42,000	33,720
Human Services Associate	11,268 - 22,908	17,556
Police Science	11,844 - 42,000	20,784
Technical		
Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Technology	15,276 - 37,428	21,096
Architectural	13,080 - 33,000	21,060
Automotive Technology	14,040 - 48,000	22,548
Electro-Mechanical	14,556 - 45,000	24,564
Electronics	14,184 - 40,872	20,712
Industrial Engineering Technician	17,628 - 51,000	27,036
Mechanical Design Technician	14,556 - 54,588	22,776

JOYCE EVANS

No education, no progress under W-2

Welfare reform, or Wisconsin Works (W-2), without a higher education option revives a life of sharecropping. I'm a sharecropper's daughter, so I'll tell you all about it.

My daddy didn't get an education. He was too busy tending the land. He didn't go to the Army because his parents kept him out. They applied for a hardship exemption. His father was ill, and his parents needed my dad to work the land.

Sharecroppers barely survived. They tended the land for rent, food and a paltry share of the crops — even when they brought in money.

Under welfare reform, most women will work in low-paying jobs. They'll barely have

rent and food. Many women and children will fall through the cracks — with a few exceptions. It'll be torture, with long-term adverse effects for children.

Sharecropping was torturous, and some

of the adults on welfare have sharecropper backgrounds. A sharecropper's children were kept out of school to take care of the crops. Many of these children today lack education, just as their parents did.

Sharecroppers who left the farm had unemployment problems about six months out of the year. My parents moved to a city without enough industry for unskilled laborers to survive. It was a city where surrounding small-town farmers, who no longer had sharecroppers, came to pick up their farm laborers.

Farm owners loved "colored" folks' back-breaking skills and work ethic. We worked all day long for pennies.

When sharecroppers couldn't pay for baby-sitters, they kept their oldest children home from school or took the baby to the field.

If W-2 families don't have enough money to pay for child care, if the younger children get too sick to attend school, watch out, older kids. I know the drill.

Education was something in the far-off, unforeseen future, and sharecroppers like my parents needed baby-sitters more than children who could read.

Under welfare reform, or W-2, women have to work. W-2 and sharecropping share the worst of evils: no educational opportunities.

The irony is that Wisconsin had a strong educational program with Learnfare. Women attended school in such great numbers that Milwaukee Area Technical College built a day-care center.

Now the center's quotas are down, which most likely means single women on welfare have dropped out of school.

Gov. Tommy Thompson's controversial programs weren't perfect, but he was smart and progressive-thinking back then. Few if any other states had such programs. Thompson boasted about his cutting-edge welfare programs.

Then Thompson lost his way or got blinded by the bright lights in Washington and the politics of welfare reform.

Now how many women do you think can do high-tech jobs, or roll into the year 2000 with the right skills, if they don't go on to technical schools or colleges?

How many schools do you think will raise tuition because of the shortfall? How many businesses do you think will lack education and skilled employees?

How much money do you think the state will spend before it declares W-2 a failure? And who do you think will get blamed if this one-size-fits-all cure isn't altered enough to succeed?

Because of these questions, I'm compelled to raise these questions about W-2 as I see it. I don't want to relive a sharecropper mentality in an age when educated people are needed to make people, companies and the country productive.

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sharecropper mentality in

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people are needed to make

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country productive.

(continued)

Of MATC's 1994 associate degree and diploma program graduates, 790 were "economically disadvantaged." Of those students 91% found employment six months after graduation. Average starting salary for 1994 associate degree graduates was \$24,000 a year, and for diploma program graduates, \$19,250. This clearly demonstrates the important role of technical education in changing lives and permanently reducing dependency on public assistance.

A large portion of MATC part-time students (65%) are also "economically disadvantaged." In fact nearly all day students enrolled in basic skills and English as a Second Language are enrolled part time and are economically disadvantaged (96%). This training is essential to disadvantaged students as they work to meet the qualifications demanded by employers.

Career Skills Vital to End Dependency

It is crucial, then, that the type of education and training provided by MATC play a major role in welfare reform. The college has helped many students transition from dependency to careers. To truly be effective in welfare reform, W-2 must provide career and lifelong skills training opportunities. An MATC education has proven to be the best way for the economically disadvantaged to become economically advantaged.

TO MAKE W-2 FAIR
FOR STUDENTS, THE
FOLLOWING AMENDMENT
IS NEEDED. -

HOURS SPENT IN CLASS
PLUS TWO HOURS OF
STUDY TIME FOR EVERY
HOUR SPENT IN CLASS
MEETS THE WORK RE-
QUIREMENT OF THE W-2
WELFARE REFORM LE-
GISLATION.

Milwaukee Area Technical College

PROJECT GET STARTED

Status Report

Project Goals:

- To effectively assess and prepare an Employability Development Plan for 2,400 (previously exempt) AFDC/Caseloads with children under one year of age.
- To analyze priority needs for this group based on infant-toddler child care, education, parenting skills, work activity and other services necessary to successfully engage this group in W-2 transition.
- To make recommendations based on the above needs as they will impact W-2 plans/or contracts.
- To engage 75% in some level of appropriate job readiness, education, parenting skills, or work activity for at least 10 hours per week.

Initial Strategies:

1. To select a leadership person within the MATC structure by 12/13/96 (Completed).
2. To convene a planning group to fully develop the project plan/timetable by 12/23/96 (Completed).
3. To organize at least four 3-person teams, 2 appointment schedulers, 2 outreach persons, and 4 data entry persons by 1/10/97.
4. To initiate project activity with final planning, orientations and training week of January 13.
5. To schedule at least a 20% sample for assessment and EDP preparation and to complete an assessment of needs/program implications by 2/15/97.
6. Based on the assessments and EDP, make assignments for 75% of the target group to the appropriate activity.

<u>Total Project Budget:</u>	\$457,883
<u>Total Project Revenue:</u>	\$420,000
<u>MATC Match:</u>	\$ 37,883

Budget Notes:

1. The project may be extended to respond to the next target group of 1,000 plus pregnant persons based on its effectiveness.
2. Child Care costs are not included in operating costs.

Revenue:

The base revenue is calculated at \$175 per completed case x 2,400 cases with children between 12 weeks and 12 months of age = \$420,000.

For all persons who are engaged the MJCN will earn \$500.

The initial estimate of revenue to expense is as follows:

Part 1 - \$175 per assessment/EDP for Project Get Started

Part 2 - \$85 per case for interim pre-employment- motivational seminars for 30 - 90 days for Project Get-Started

Part 3 - \$240 per case net earnings per JOBS provider for case management and movement to employment.



American Federation of Teachers, Local 212

Milwaukee Area Technical College

Ernst F. Schnook, President

Frank Shansky, Director of Labor Relations

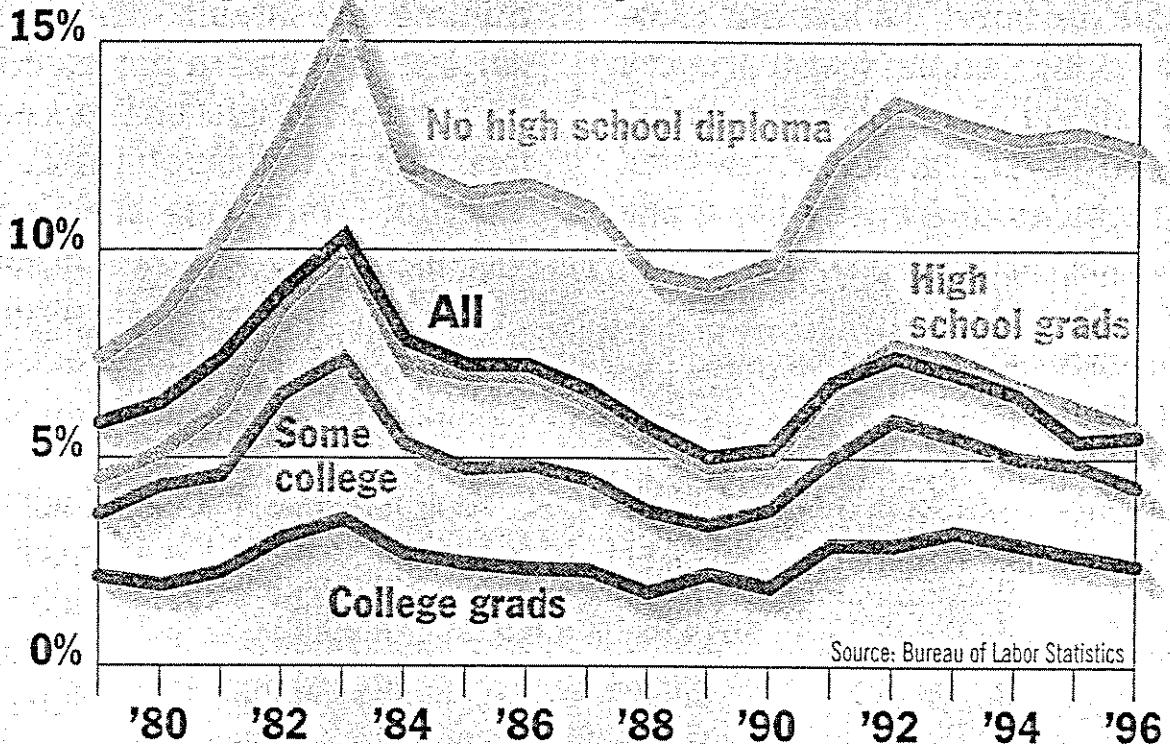
Mary A. Tews, Administrative Assistant

Pamela Bautch, Secretary

739 West Juneau Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53233-1416 Phone: (414) 765-0910 FAX: (414) 765-9141

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► Unemployment Rate by Education Level



If you could, would you like to change jobs, or would you prefer to stay where you are now?

Change 37%

Stay 41%

Is it likely or unlikely you will change jobs within the next five years?

Likely 46%

Unlikely 51%

From a telephone poll of 657 currently employed adult Americans for TIME/CNN on Jan. 8-9 by Yankelovich Partners Inc. Sampling error is $\pm 4.0\%$. "Not sure" omitted.



American Federation of Teachers, Local 212

Milwaukee Area Technical College

Ernst F. Schnook, President
Frank Shansky, Director of Labor Relations
Mary A. Tews, Administrative Assistant
Pamela Bautch, Secretary

739 West Juneau Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53233-1416 Phone: (414) 765-0910 FAX: (414) 765-9141



December 13, 1996

Dear

Last February, Senator Grobschmidt tried to add an educational component to W-2. It failed by one vote because the senators in Madison voted party line. Next month when the legislature goes into session we will have another opportunity to save 15,000 WTCS students whose education will be effected by this regressive piece of legislation.

Our Director, Dr. Birkholz and Local 212 have taken strong public stands to make sure that economically disadvantaged students will have a chance to get good family-supporting jobs by remaining in school.

We need your help to get W-2 amended. W-2 needs the following educational component so that disadvantaged students will remain in school:

Hours spent in class plus two hours study time for every hour spent in class meets the work requirement of the W-2 Welfare Reform Legislation.

Please help us to convince our legislators that they must amend W-2 to save our students. It's the right thing to do!

Sincerely,

Local 212 Executive Board

**TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL ROSEN
ECONOMICS CHAIR, MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
AFT LOCAL 212 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
PRESENTED AT THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 8, 1997**

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to address your committee. I am speaking on behalf of the faculty and staff of Milwaukee Area Technical College, AFT Local 212 and the 46,000 students we serve.

The Wisconsin Vocational Technical College system is the most successful employment and training system in the country. 92% of MATC graduates are employed within their field within 6 months of graduation. We have four jobs for every student we graduate. At a time when the nation's businesses in both the manufacturing and services are facing shortages of skilled workers, we have an educational training system that most states can only dream about. At a time when Wisconsin is implementing a work based welfare reform system, the vocational technical college system has world class instructors and technology to provide those who today are unemployed or underemployed with the skills required for self-sufficient employment tomorrow. IN 1994 we graduated 800 economically disadvantaged students. 91% found employment within 6 months of graduation. The average starting pay for these students with a two year degree was \$24,000 a year and for those with a one year degree \$19,500. Now that is welfare reform. The Wisconsin Technical College system works for Wisconsin. I am here to urge to continue to invest in this system for the good of our economy, our businesses and our people.

There are three issues that I wish to address: 1) the need to increase the level of state aids; 2) the Governor's youth options proposal; and 3) the need for an educational component in Wisconsin's welfare reform legislation, Wisconsin Works.

State Aids: The proposed budget requests an increase in state aids of 1%. While we recognize the constraints that policymakers are under, we believe that it is short sighted to underfund the vocational technical college system. And a 1% increase in state aids, when the rate of inflation is at least 2.5% and many analysts believe it will be increasing, amounts to a real cut. Can we afford to underinvest in the vocational college system when it is the surest way of ensuring that the skilled training needs of our businesses will be met? Can we afford to underinvest in the technical college system when it is the only proven path out of poverty for our poorest citizens.

It is universally recognized that we have entered the information age, not only in communications, but in electronics, health care and manufacturing. Computerized technologies are altering the way we produce goods and deliver services. Our technical colleges need to keep pace with the dramatic advances in technology. We need to retain the high quality instructors and staff that we have worked hard for years to attract and train. We need to continually upgrade our physical plant, capital and human resources if we are to serve our students and Wisconsin's business with the high quality they expect and deserve. We will not be able to do so with a real cut in our state funding.

The state is entering a period of increased competition between states for corporate headquarters and businesses. One of the keys to ensuring that Wisconsin will retain its businesses and serve them and attract new and vibrant companies is to invest in our world class vocational technical system. A one percent increase in state aids is insufficient. It will not allow us to provide the education and training services our businesses and students require. At MATC I serve on the

school's budget committee. We are already discussing what courses and training programs to cut. If state aids are not increased we will slowly but surely begin to dismantle a proven employment and training system that has taken almost a century to create. We urge you to increase the state aid formula by 4%. 2.5% will cover inflationary increases and the additional funding will allow us to grow the single institution in this state that we know will help our economy grow and remain competitive.

Youth Options; The Governor's proposal to allow and high school student to choose to attend a vocational college rather than there high school certainly raise some concerns. The average age of our students is 26 years and a large influx of high school students who are attracted by the less controlled environment present in a college setting could begin to change the character of the vocational technical college system. On the other hand, we understand the Governor's desire to work toward a seamless K through 14 system and his commitment to provide students with a wide variety of educational choices. We believe that if the state wants to promote the youth options alternative it should put its money where its heart is. The youth options initiative is clearly a state mandate and state mandates should be funded by the state. This proposal should not be funded by transferring funds from one educational system or program to another. If it has merit it should be funded by the state for its merits.

W-2: The state has launched an ambitious work based welfare reform program. In Milwaukee County we have 26,000 adults who are presently recipients. 12,000 of these primarily single females who head households have not completed high school. At the same time the US Department of Labor and Wisconsin's Department of Commerce have projected that 70% of the

new jobs being created between now and the year 2000 will require some level of post-secondary training. The private sector, experiencing labor shortages among skilled workers, has expressed an interest in hiring former AFDC recipients, but only if they have the skills required by today's increasing sophisticated producers. If W-2 is to achieve its objective of assisting former welfare recipients in becoming self-sufficient we must bridge this gap. The key is education and training. Yet, the current legislation, for all practical purposes, does not allow welfare recipients to remain in school. I have had several students who have been forced by the Pay for Performance regulations to leave school. Case workers are routinely discouraging students from remaining in school or in two year degree granting programs-the surest road to self-sufficiency. For the most part, these are women who not only are full-time students, but full-time mothers. They are struggling against great odds and often lack the family support systems that many of us can rely on in time of need. Our request is simple. It is just. It is economically sound and it is good public policy. It is this: One hour of classroom and two hours of homework for every hour of class work should count as work experience for students making progress toward a degree.

Education is the transmission belt that will bridge the gap between the needs of Wisconsin's company's for skilled workers and the thousands of our citizens who today live in poverty, on AFDC. Education works and education is work. Please add an educational component to Wisconsin Works legislation. The investment today will reap many times its value in economic growth in the future. I urge you to add an educational component so that all our citizens can contribute to the growth of our state economy and live self-sufficient, productive lives. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak. I am prepared to answer any questions.

**STATEMENT OF ALLIANCE FOR FUTURE TRANSIT
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING
APRIL 8, 1997**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. We are here to testify this morning on behalf of the Alliance for Future Transit, a nonprofit coalition whose membership includes 63 businesses and 16 community organizations representing more than 50,000 citizens in the Greater Milwaukee area.

AFT was founded almost three years ago by several Greater Milwaukee business leaders who were concerned about growing traffic congestion and insufficient mass transit service in the East-West Corridor. Those problems were seen as a significant threat to the economic competitiveness of both our region and our state. AFT's mission is to educate the public about the need for a balanced mix of transportation improvements for Southeastern Wisconsin.

We are here to testify on two matters related to the state's transportation budget. First, we believe that a "no-increase" budget for this biennium simply will not meet our state's transportation needs. As a result, we support an increase in the gasoline tax or other transportation user fees to provide additional revenues for the Wisconsin DOT.

We take this position, however, with the caveat that mass transit must receive its fair share. While some may argue that transit already does receive its fair share based on its percentage of vehicle trips or a comparison with other states, we believe that the state could and should do better.

While it is true that state transit funding has increased by 28% over the past decade, it is also true that transit operators throughout Wisconsin have a greater reliance on state aid than ever before. This is due to a combination of Federal funding cuts, increased operating costs and lower farebox revenues -- trends which are all expected to continue during the next biennium.

Some may see these problems as a reason for the state to abandon its commitment to mass transit. But given the pivotal role that mass transit will play in the success of W-2 -- and given the compelling social and environmental benefits associated with quality mass transit -- we believe that such a course of action would be economically and morally inexcusable.

Those who would argue that the state is already generous enough toward mass transit must also recognize that it provides no funding for transit capital improvements. In fact, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has cited this deficiency as one of the primary reasons why the significant transit improvements that have been recommended for our region for decades have not been implemented. This is also a primary reason why ridership has declined -- with insufficient resources for capital improvements, our transit systems are attempting to compete with other transportation modes using the same technologies and routes that they employed 25 years ago.

Finally, it is important to recognize that unlike most other states, Wisconsin does not give local governments the authority to raise non-property tax revenues to fund mass transit operations. As a result, local authorities can only turn to service cuts or fare increases to offset the loss of Federal dollars, which only exacerbates the loss of riders.

In order to combat those problems, we urge the Committee to ensure that any new revenues raised for transportation be distributed equitably between state highway programs, local road aids and mass transit. And our idea of equitable is to provide sufficient funding to enable the state to make good on its Translinks 21 commitment of ensuring that State/Federal funding covers 50% of the cost of transit operations in Wisconsin.

We would also urge the committee to enact enabling legislation that would allow local governments to implement their own user fees to pay for mass transit -- not as a replacement for state funding, but a supplement to the 50% pledge in the Translinks 21 plan.

In considering enabling legislation, we would urge you to revisit the idea put forward by Governor Thompson two years ago to allow Milwaukee County to levy a two-cent per gallon storage fee at its two fuel storage facilities to be used for mass transit. AFT supports this concept, but we recognize the political barriers to its passage. As a result, we have proposed that the revenues be distributed to each of the seven counties in Southeastern Wisconsin, with each allowed to use its share for any type of local transportation need once mass transit needs are taken care of.

In supporting increased transportation revenues, AFT would also urge that WisDOT change its emphasis from highways to intermodal transportation. We were alarmed by the recent report issued by the state's Legislative Audit Bureau, which noted that spending on the major highway improvements program increased 98.1% above the inflation rate during the past 10 years, with most of those projects financed through increased reliance on revenue bonding.

We believe that this disturbing trend reflects WisDOT's tendency to advocate for gold-plated highway projects without objectively considering less costly alternatives. The perfect example is Milwaukee's East-West Corridor, where for years cost effective rail solutions were denounced by a Department that clearly was far more interested in highway expansion.

We are pleased to note that recently WisDOT has changed its thinking on the East-West Corridor and is now supporting a balanced transportation plan. We hope and trust that this change of heart will continue in other Milwaukee-area transportation corridors and other parts of the state. There are certainly instances where highway expansion can be justified, but it is critical that other modes also be considered and that the economic development needs of urban areas and the desires of local citizens, businesses and elected leaders be heeded.

With that point in mind, we would like to conclude by briefly discussing the East-West Corridor Transportation Study. AFT -- as well as other business groups in the Milwaukee area, including the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce and the Greater Milwaukee Committee -- strongly supports moving forward with the draft Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the East-West Corridor.

As you know, this study has been dominated by regional strife since its inception more than five years ago. Given those circumstances, many of us held little hope that a plan could be developed that would hold real potential for generating regional consensus. We are excited not only that the draft plan has clearly indicated such potential, but also by its ability -- if implemented -- to give the citizens of our region a first-class transportation system that will sustain economic growth and maintain our outstanding quality of life well into the 21st century.

We would strongly urge this Committee to appropriate the necessary funds to begin preliminary engineering on this balanced plan. In doing so, we would also strongly urge you to refrain from tampering with the package that will hopefully soon be approved by county boards in Milwaukee and Waukesha.

In the past, members of this Committee have attempted to instill their own personal preferences on the local East-West Corridor decisionmaking process by blocking funding for light rail. While there will certainly need to be a serious debate on state funding for the construction of light rail and other project components, that debate should not take place with respect to preliminary engineering.

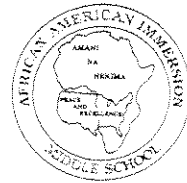
A consensus has emerged among members of the Milwaukee and Waukesha County Boards to advance the entire package. **That consensus must be respected.** The Federal Highway Administration has already indicated that without consensus, the hundreds of millions of Federal dollars that have been promised for our region will be in severe jeopardy. We cannot afford to throw away those funds while gridlock on our highways grows and the transportation needs of hundreds of thousands of transit-dependent citizens go largely unmet.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MALCOLM X ACADEMY

1700 North First Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212-2499
Area 414-264-0160

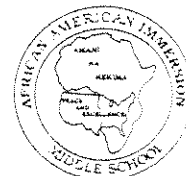
My name is Bonnie Jefferson and I am a parent and president of the Village Council, the governance body at Malcolm X Academy, a Milwaukee Public School. Our school is the only middle school with an Afrocentric focus.

Last school year in response to a decision by the Milwaukee School Board of Directors to close our school, we submitted an application to become a charter school. We applied for the charter, because no one was listening to us at the school board. We presented statistic after statistic, hard evidence about the improvements Malcolm X was experiencing because of the changes that had already been made. No one listened. The school board voted to close us down anyway. One school board member in particular, wanted to eliminate our academic program. This is the reason we sent our children to Malcolm X. We wanted an Afrocentric program for our children.

Charter school status would have given us the autonomy we needed to successfully educate our children. We could decide without going through all the politics and bureaucracy of the school board, who our teachers would be; the length of our school day; the length of our school year; Saturday classes; evening classes for adults; day care services for parents and teachers; adding a high school; and even budget priorities... The possibilities are endless. We could even



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MALCOLM X ACADEMY

2760 North First Street

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212 2499

Area 414 264 0160

hire our own special services, who could give us as much time as we see fit.

In order for a public school in Milwaukee to submit a charter school application, you need to have 51% of the teachers in building sign the application. Our teachers did that. But in the end, our teacher rescinded their application, because they were told if they became charter school teachers, they would lose their pension benefits. As parents we did not want that to happen.

In the new charter school proposal, Governor Thompson has fixed that problem. Experienced teachers are needed and they should not be punished for wanting to work with our kids.

With a stronger charter school law, if we were to become a charter school, no one could ever vote to close us down again, unless we were not leaving up to the standards we have established.

Please support a stronger charter school law.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Jefferson

President, Malcolm X Academy Village Council

Parents For School Choice

2541 N. 46th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53210

414/873-6761 fax 414/873-0669

My name is Zakiya Courtney. I am the Director of Parents For School Choice and I am representing many parents who would directly benefit from having greater educational options available to them. I am addressing you today, **in support** of Governor Thompson's proposal to strengthen the existing charter school law for Milwaukee.

As members of the Joint Finance Committee, you may question why do we need a stronger charter school law in Milwaukee, when Milwaukee already has the ability to charter schools; we already have the Milwaukee Parental Choice program and within Milwaukee Public Schools we have *some choices*. The answer is we need to continue to expand the education options available to Milwaukee's parents and children.

As a society we can no longer afford to operate schools as if one size fits all; one size doesn't even fit most. We don't need boilerplate schools, we need to have greater options in choosing and creating schools. Schools need the ability to be creative enough to reach the children they are serving. Parents need to have real input into the schools.

I like to use the analogy of taking a lot of people with different eating habits out to dinner. Do you take them to a steak house? Well, you just left out the vegetarians. Do you take them to a seafood restaurant? No, someone is allergic to fish. You would probably look for a smorgasbord. Someplace with an elaborate buffet, where everyone could find something to appeal to their needs. A stronger charter school law adds to the buffet table of educational options available to our children in Milwaukee.

Today, we have only one charter school in the city of Milwaukee-Highland Community School. This is a school that was great long before it became a charter school. Why don't we have more? Because Milwaukee Public Schools refuse to authorize more schools. The proposals are there. They were submitted by community-based organizations and schools MPS already has contracts with. They are good schools. MPS placed their proposals on file. Why? Your guess is as good as mine. Under the new charter schools law, these good schools could go to the City of Milwaukee, MATC, or UWM to apply for a public school charter. They would not be restricted to only one authorizing body.

The proposal before you addresses another serious problem in the current law. Now, teachers could lose pension benefits if they transferred from a public school to a charter school. This has the effect of holding good teachers hostage. It is unfair to expect teachers to lose pension benefits to work in a charter school. The Governor's proposal addresses this concern.

Parents For School Choice

2541 N. 46th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53210

414/873-6761 fax 414/873-0669

There are other important changes in the charter school law that others will address. But please keep in mind, a stronger charter school law is not just what Governor Thompson wants to have. It's not just what Dr. Fuller wants to have. It is what many parents in Milwaukee want. Parents and their children are the special interest group here. They want greater education options for their children including quality education in a safe and nurturing environment.

Please maintain and pass this proposal intact.

Thank you.

Zakiya Courtney

2485 Wildwood Dr.
Green Bay, WI 54302

April 7, 1997

Dear Members, Joint Finance Committee

I am on the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) Board of Directors, a Registered Land Surveyor and work for Brown County and I use land records every working day. I would like to see the changes to the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) and creation of the Wisconsin Land Council (WLC) removed from the Governor's Budget Bill.

When the WLIP was developed 10 years ago the merits were debated in public forums, the WLC will not benefit from public scrutiny if it is created by the budget bill. In addition to the lack of public scrutiny, I have other concerns about changes that would affect the WLIP. The WLC will be charged with state wide land use concerns while the WLIP is charged with land records modernization. Section 97 of the budget bill, which creates the WLC, refers to land use in every sentence of sub. 1. There is no mention of land records modernization in the WLC functions. The WLIP works well and is recognized nationally. The program was created with a bottom up philosophy. This philosophy continues with the close ties between the WLIP and the people responsible for collecting, storing and using the information. These land records professionals are on the ground floor when determining which areas their local unit of government should concentrate efforts on. The program has promoted land records modernization and has resulted in better information being more readily available to the public faster. Cooperation and integration are foundational elements in the plan. The foundational elements must be completed before WLIP money can be used for other endeavors. The rationale behind the foundational elements was to provide incentive for all the records to be exchangeable with minimal problems.

Secretary Buger ended his March 21, 1997 letter to the legislature with the statement, "... a merged WLC and WLIP offers a much-needed mechanism to: (1) coordinate the land-related activities of state agencies; (2) assure meaningful local government and public input on land matters; (3) provide easy access to land information and tools for all Wisconsin citizens; and (4) maximize state tax investment in land information systems."

Those are the goals the WLIP is working toward now. The differences between the two programs can be reconciled but additional information is required from all the parties with stakes in land records so again I request that you remove changing the WLIP and creating the WLC from the budget bill so it can be introduced as legislation and be subject to public review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patrick Ford".

Patrick Ford

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

Robert F. Taylor for MMAC

April 8, 1997

Honored Chairmen and members of the Joint Committee on Finance:

My name is Bob Taylor. I am President of Erie Manufacturing Company, a Milwaukee controls manufacturer with about 150 employees. With a strong personal interest in public education, I served on Wisconsin's Commission on schools for the 21st century, where I chaired the school finance committee, and I am here today on behalf of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, on whose Board of Directors and Education Committee I serve.

I am here to express MMAC's strong support for the proposal in the budget to strengthen charter school laws for Milwaukee. MMAC is pleased to be part of a wide ranging coalition in Milwaukee of parents, elected officials, educators and community leaders -- who have worked for these changes and support them with enthusiasm.

MMAC's interest in education is simple. As an organization of 2,500 companies with thousands of employees, we have a deep concern about the quality of our present and future work force. Our members tell us they face increasing difficulty hiring workers with basic skills. During the past decade, this has emerged as the most serious problem facing employers. If we do not resolve it, companies will be forced to expand or locate elsewhere to meet their needs.

Our members have the reasonable expectation that most of our workforce will continue to come from public schools. Demographics tell us that we are coming to a time when we will need all the young people currently in our schools to replace our aging workforce -- and we desperately hope that we can find a way to educate them. It's not happening now for the majority, who drop out before attaining a high school degree.

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We support the Governor's proposal -- developed with the assistance and support of former MPS Superintendent Howard Fuller -- precisely because it will **improve** public schools by giving parents more options and teachers more freedom -- because it develop a class of charter schools that is more accountable for results than the public schools we have now, and because successful charter schools will provide a competitive benchmark against which conventional public schools can be measured. Our objective is not to obsolete public schools but rather to give them incentive to improve. We call it competition -- and we know it works.

Our support for public schools is not new. We provide about 30 percent of the scholarships awarded to MPS graduates. To be eligible, students must achieve a C+ average and maintain a 90 percent attendance rate. In return, they receive scholarships up to \$3,500 per year for four years of school. To help the students most in need, we have focused our efforts on the six worst performing schools in Milwaukee.

The experience has been rewarding but it has also been instructive as to why we cannot be satisfied with the status quo. Our latest scholarships were awarded to the class of 1996 from six schools. That class started with 2,784 freshmen. Four years later, only 821 graduated from those six schools, and of those, only 269 -- just under 10% of the entering freshmen class -- had the C+ average to make them eligible for our scholarships. Yet we operate a public education system that somehow says that's acceptable.

Our city - its students, its parents, its business community, its taxpayers, and, most of all , its youth - cannot continue to tolerate this kind of results. We business people know that improvement is a matter of our survival here. We ask for your support to give us that chance.

Thank you.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE PUBLIC HEARING
ON SB77/AB100
STATEMENT BY VONNA J. PITEL,
LIBRARY/MEDIA DIRECTOR - DISTRICT COORDINATOR
AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
WISCONSIN EDUCATIONAL MEDIA ASSOCIATION
APRIL 8, 1997 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

Co-Chairs, and members, my name is Vonna Pitel, and I am here today as a representative of the Wisconsin Educational Media Association, or WEMA. WEMA is a statewide organization of over 1000 members who have a commitment to provide library media services to students from kindergarten through college. First, I would like to address remarks as a member of a state organization and follow those remarks representing myself as a practicing library/media specialist and district coordinator.

I appreciate the opportunity to share with you importance of this state's educational media program and also our concerns for its future. WEMA supports the vast majority of the TEACH Wisconsin Initiative and applauds the Governor for making educational technology an issue in this biennial budget. Unfortunately because my time is limited I will be highlighting what changes we would like to see made, as opposed to all the positive elements of this proposal. While the prospect of making wider access to technology available to our students is very exciting, our concern is that particular budget proposals - such as the cap on Common School Fund are financing technology at the expense of other critical programs.

While earmarking Common School Fund dollars to finance technology does have the effect of insuring that districts will have money to spend on their technological goals, it does so by forcing local administrators to make hard choices about what will be cut, since no new money is provided to them. Common school fund money is already being used to advance technology in the schools through the purchase of computer software, CD-ROMs, video disks and other materials for library media collections. The cap on funding for school library programs will severely disadvantage our efforts to keep our collections the vital and relevant educational resources they must be.

Costs of media resources continue to escalate at a rate far higher than inflation. And as we are all discovering, keeping pace with technological advances is an expensive proposition. The Common School Fund provides at least two thirds of all funding for library materials statewide: in many districts, it is the only source of funding. The loss of over \$4 per student, which this proposal represents, will severely disadvantage the provision of resource materials to support the curriculum.

We would also like to take this opportunity to share with you our view that the best replacement for the Pioneering Partners program would be a block grant program that distributes funding based on an equalized property valuation formula. The competitive process used by the Pioneering Partners grants caused great decisiveness among school districts as well as inequity of resource allocation. In addition to encouraging greater equity of funding, there

is also a real need for increased accountability to ensure that funds are used in pursuit of districts' technology plans.

We strongly support subsidized, postalized rates for telecommunications access for all school buildings. We are concerned that districts be given the greatest flexibility and allow them to connect to all public school buildings, including administration buildings not just high schools. We would also like to see a commitment on the part of the legislature to making one of the subsidized lines available in every district, including those which have already contracted for lines at a higher rate.

WEMA is also concerned with the make-up of the TEACH Wisconsin Board. Because the Board is charged with overseeing progress on schools achieving the goals of the TEACH Wisconsin program it is critical that the Board include representatives from the K-12 community. WEMA supports designating two of the gubernatorial appointments as K-12 representatives.

Comments as a Practicing School Library Media Professional

As a school library media specialist and district media coordinator for many years, I would like to share with you a few points indicating how school library media programs support the implementation of technology and learning in school districts across the state. **I strongly feel the Common School Fund should not be capped.**

- School library media specialists are providing a leadership role in implementing technology in their school buildings and districts. Many library professionals hold the position of technology coordinator for their building. I teach the Internet to my students during the day and to adult community classes at night. I also teach the CD-ROMS and other computer software to students and teachers.
- Software and equipment is already purchased through library media accounts and serves the entire school. I purchase software, CD-ROMs, online services, etc. I strongly feel all software should be cataloged and processed through the library so that it is accessible to everyone in the building. This is a cost-effective way for utilizing new resources in a building. Therefore, our budgets should not be limited but increased.
- Equipment is purchased out of library funds to provide information retrieval stations for students. The computers in my library are used throughout the day for students, for staff development programs and evening classes for the community.
- Many libraries have older print materials that they must update to keep collections current. The cost of books, magazines, media and reference tools continues to rise. Through my professional reading and experience with library collections, I know that print is not dead. Online services and CD-ROMs compliment the print collection and provide a broader range of resources for our students. We perhaps will use more online

reference material for current information, but books for research and recreational reading must be added to the collection each year. Our students must be able to read if they are to use computers effectively.

- Library media resources will also be able to be used throughout a school building as networking is added. Resources will be more efficiently used if they are listed in the online catalog for everyone to identify, whether the material is in the classroom or IMC. Therefore, library media budgets should not be limited.
- If public libraries are included in the TEACH Initiative, an additional appropriation should be added so that school funding is not limited.

In conclusion, library media specialists around the state are working to implement technology in their buildings. They are trained in print, media and technology services. The most efficient way to implement and provide the most accessibility and training for technology in schools is, I believe, through library media programs. Capping the Common School Fund will gradually erode library media programs. On behalf of WEMA and as a practicing school library media specialist and district coordinator, I thank you for the opportunity to share my association's concerns and my personal concerns. The library community, along with many of you and other members of the legislature, have fought hard to maintain the Common School Fund, which has allowed us to achieve a high standard of excellence in providing resources to students. I look forward to working with you and my state association to continue to provide that standard in the future. Thank you.

Vonna J. Pitel
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